

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 HEW-02 OES-03 FEAE-00 INT-05 CIEP-01

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R 130816Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 025

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB KS IR

SUBJECT: KOREAN PAPERS REPORT STRIKE OF KOREAN TRUCK DRIVERS IN IRAN

1. PRESS REPORTS APPEARING OVER WEEKEND OF MAY 10-12 INDICATE THAT RECENTLY ARRIVED KOREAN DRIVERS OF TRAILER TRUCKS HAD STRUCK TO PROTEST INADEQUACY OF OF THEIR MONTHLY WAGES OF \$475, WHICH THEY CHARGE TO BE LOWER THAN WAGES OF OTHER FOREIGN TRUCK DRIVERS IN IRAN. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, THEY CLAIM THAT IRANIAN COST OF LIVING HIGHER THAN THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND; THAT ACCOMMODATION OF MEALS AND LODGING HARD TO FIND AND INADEQUATE; AND THAT WAGES INADEQUATE TO ALSO MAINTAIN HOUSEHOLDS IN KOREA.

2. ALTHOUGH KOREAN LABOR AUTHORITIES HAD GIVEN MUCH PUBLICITY IN RECENT WEEKS TO RECRUITMENT OF TRUCK DRIVERS AND OTHER TECHNICIANS FOR IRAN, PRIVATELY THEY HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER HARD BARGAINING RE WAGES AND ATTENDANT PROBLEM OF RECRUITING QUALIFIED

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PERSONNEL UNDER CONDITIONS OFFERED.

3. ROKG LABOR OFFICIALS' CONCERN OVER UNREALISTIC CONDITIONS OFFERED PERTAINED NOT ONLY TO TRUCKERS, BUT ALSO TO MEDICAL PERSONNEL, ENGINEERS, AND TECHNICIANS, THEY CHARGED THAT OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES ARE HURTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NOT ONLY THROUGH THEIR ENERGY PRICING POLICIES, BUT ALSO BY MINIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARNING FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM EXPORT OF TECHNICAL MANPOWER. AT SAME TIME GOVT AND MEDIA CONTINUE TO PRAISE OPPORTUNITIES FOR KOREAN COMPANIES, CONTRACTORS, TECHNICIANS IN MIDEAST AND EMPHASIZE MIDEAST INVESTMENT PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS TO KOREA, AS WELL AS KOREAN THIRD WORLD DIPLOMACY WITH MIDEAST HELP.

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